

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-16 are amended and claims 17-20 are added. Claims 1 and 14 are amended to even further distinguish over the applied references, claims 7 and 13 are amended to overcome objections, claims 17-20 are added to recite additional patentable features and claims 2-13, 15 and 16 are amended to improve readability. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, for example, at page 4, lines 20-23, at page 15, lines 13-22, at page 17, lines 2-13 and in Figs. 4, 5 and 7. No new matter is added.

The Office Action did not consider the two Information Disclosure Statements filed on June 9, 2006 and October 19, 2006, but instead requested Applicants to highlight documents that have been specifically brought to Applicants' attention and/or are known to be of most significance. Applicants submit that the previously-submitted Information Disclosure Statements should be considered because they are compliant with all PTO rules. However, to comply with the Examiner's request, Applicants provide the following additional information. With respect to the June 9, and October 19, 2006 Information Disclosure Statements, the references believed to be of most significance are:

U.S. 2004/0160582

U.S. 2005/0122505

U.S. 2005/0219499

JP 10-303114

WO 99/49504 (English translation submitted with the attached IDS)

WO 2004/093160 (corresponding to U.S. 2006/0023181 cited in the attached IDS)

Additionally, Applicants request the Examiner to consider the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith.

The Office Action objects to the title. Applicants amended the title in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

The Office Action objects to claim 7 for an informality. Claim 7 is amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Claim 13 is objected to for allegedly failing to limit claim 1. Claim 13 is amended to overcome the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Taberelli et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,509,852) (Taberelli) in view of Hayashi et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0035897) (Hayashi). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Taberelli fails to disclose or render obvious the combinations of features recited by independent claims 1 and 14. In particular, Taberelli fails to disclose or render obvious a stage apparatus or exposure method in which a lyophilic portion is disposed below the surface of the substrate held by the holder in the vicinity of the holder, as recited by independent claims 1 and 14. The Office Action acknowledges that Taberelli fails to disclose a recovery device that has a lyophilic portion. The Office Action asserts that Hayashi discloses a recovery device that has a lyophilic portion. However, the combination of the applied references fails to disclose the claimed features noted above.

In the event one of ordinary skill in the art had used the lyophilic portion of the feed tube 302 of Hayashi in the recovery device of Taberelli, as suggested by the Office Action on page 4, then the interior of the recovery pipe of Taberelli would have been lyophilic. The recovery pipe of Taberelli is disposed above the surface of the substrate and is not in the vicinity of the holder. See Fig. 3 of Taberelli. Thus, Taberelli combined with Hayashi fails to disclose or render obvious a lyophilic portion disposed below the surface of the substrate held by the holder in the vicinity of the holder, as recited by independent claims 1 and 14.

Thus, independent claims 1 and 14 and their dependent claims are patentable over the applied references. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



Mario A. Costantino
Registration No. 33,565

MAC:MEM/hs

Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Information Disclosure Statement

Date: May 16, 2008

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
